

Dear Trinity Legacies Review Working Group,

I'm one of the librarians here in Trinity – in 2016-17, I was one of the people responsible for the [Berkeley50](#) series of celebrations of the opening of the (now) Berkeley Library. As such, I believe I can be considered one of the main experts in Trinity on the Library's history and use, as well as being representative of the Library's staff on a more general level.

I don't think most Library staff actually have much of an issue with changing the name from Berkeley. We can see that advocating for a change isn't an attack on the Library or its staff, per se; our backs aren't up.

But changing it to what, exactly?

As is well documented the original name of the Berkeley was the New Library. Clearly, if the name had *remained* the New Library, no-one would be advocating now, given what we know, to rename it in honour of George Berkeley – indeed, it would be unthinkable.

However, that doesn't mean that parties in that alternate present wouldn't be urging College to rename the New Library after someone considered *worthy at this time*.

Say we rename it after someone great and good, from our long list of alumni. Mary Robinson? Sam Beckett (we can keep the B in the BLU Complex!)? Wolfe Tone? Hozier?? Whether future parties will *still* consider anyone the Library would be renamed after "worthy" is far from clear – just as Berkeley is now problematic, how will future generations view anyone we pick now?

Plus, naming the Library, now, for a *third* time shows that if enough pressure is applied, its name is fair game; you've renamed the Library twice, why not a third time, a fourth?

If the "New" Library had been retained as a name it would be seen as a slightly quirky "Trinityism", in that we have *newer* libraries, and have the New and Old Libraries next to each other. A quaint little factoid that would be mentioned on tours. I think we should correct the mistake that was made in 1978 in renaming the New Library. Board, as its minutes show, originally rejected renaming the New Library and it was only after more campaigning that the change went through. This was a mistake – let's undo it instead of creating further hostages to fortune for the future.

Yours faithfully,
Greg Sheaf